(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal was forwarded for submission to the Group of Ministers on 13.1.1995. One sitting of the Group of Ministers has already been held. The financial projections given in the proposals still hold good.

Acquisition of majority shares by union carbide

1742. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Calcutta-based multinational Mc Leod Russel India has acquired a majority controlling share in Union Carbide;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how does it affect the interests of the Bhopal gas victims, including the feelings for mitigating the hardships and treatment of the persons affected by various ailments resulting from the gas leak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) M/s Mcleod Russel (India) Ltd. (MRIL) is a public limited company incorporated on March, 1976 under the Companies Act, 1956. This company is engaged in the business of growing, manufacturing and sale of Tea. It is a member of the Williamson Magor Group of companies which is headed by Mr. B. M. Khaitan. The Company has acquired 50.0 per cent of the equity shares of Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) held by Union Carbide Corporation (UCC), USA. These shares have been sold by the Trustee of the Bhopal Hospital Trust on the directions of the Supreme Court The shares have been sold so that Rs. 60 crores could be made available for the construction of a hospital at Bhopal for the treatment of the persons affected by various ailments resulting from the gas leak.

Price control of drugs required under National Health Policy

1743. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether drugs required for control of diseases under National Health Policy have been kept under the price control under the New Drug Policy; if so, the names of the drugs under price control as well as those left tt the free market pressures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): In accordance with the criteria laid down in the 'Modifications in the Drug Policy, 1986, 4 bulk drugs viz. (1) Streptomycin (under National T. B. Eradication Programme); Tetracycline Mcl (under National Trachoma Control Programme and National Programme for control of blindness); (3) Chloroquine; and (4) Amodiaquin (under National Malaria Eradication Programme) come under the price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. Order, 1995. The remaining 17 bulk drugs out of the earlier list of 21 drugs under DPCO, 1987, which do not come under price control on the basis of above criteria are as under:

S.No.	Name of the Bulk Drug
1.	Isoniazid
2.	Thiacetazone
3.	Ethambutol
4.	Sodium PAS
5.	Pyrazinamide
6.	Dapsone
7.	Clofazibine
8.	Pilocarpine
9.	Hydrocortisone
10.	Iodoxuridine

1	2

11. Atropine
12. Homatropine
13. Quinine
14. Acetazolamide
15. Pyrimethemine
16. Sulphamethopyrazine
17. Diethyl Carbazine Citrate.

New Drug Control Order

1744. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued any new Drug control order, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of drugs of which Price Control rights are retained with Government and the number of drugs which have been exempted from price control under new drug control order;

(c) whether it is a fact that the share of drugs falling under the list of Government price control rights is less than half in the retail drugs market whereas the share of the control free drugs is more; and

(d) if so, what will be the price level of essential drugs/life saving medicines in the retails market and what steps Government are taking to make these available easily at a reasonable rates to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has promulgated Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO) vide No. S.O.18(E) dated 6th January, 1995 copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) Under DPCO, 1995 76 drugs, and formulations, containing any of these bulk drugs, are under price control and the rest are outside price control.

(c) It is estimated that about 50 per cent of the retail market (by value) is covred under price control.

(d) For taking care of any abrupt increase in prices of drugs which are outside price control there are necessary provisions in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Proposal to start Haldia Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

1745. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI ASHOK MITRA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals to bring into stream the Haldia Unit of Hindustan Ferilizer Corporation are under consideration;

(b) whether such proposals involve the induction of foreign capital; and

(c) the likely saving of foreign exchange each year in case the unit starts functioning at capacity utilisation of (i) 50 per cent, (ii) 75 per cent and (iii) 100 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), including its Haldia Fertilizer Project, stand declared as a sick company by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BFR). Any decision on the future of Haldia Fertilizer Project of HFC would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasijudicial authority.